

heartly congratulations to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) as he embarks on this wonderful opportunity to serve the people of his State and the people of this country in the United States Congress.

I take this opportunity for a slightly different purpose to address the House because this marks my last official day before the House of Representatives after 21½ years. In that time I have had many successes and a few failures, many good times and a few moments of heartache. I have watched with just admiration the many statesmen and I have just watched those who are less so.

I have learned some lessons along the way. Public service is a virtue. Term limits in my opinion is a stupid idea that deprives government of experience and small States of participation in leadership. Tolerance is a necessity. Politician is not a dirty word. And compromise is the glue that renders democracy possible.

To my friends on the left, government left unwatched can lead to injustice. To my friends on the right, government is not inherently evil. Compassion is desired, but in its extreme it will deprive us of our freedom.

My friends, America in the new millennium is like the great forests of the West some 200 years ago. Our ideologues on the left and the right are scouting the terrain and lighting the path to the future. Our trendsetters in both parties survey, decipher and construct the roads and bridges. And the American people follow in waves taking the routes most appropriate for their ultimate destination.

Where are they headed? I cannot say for certain. Ronald Reagan said it was for the shining city on the hill and I certainly will not argue with that. But with commitment to public service, with tolerance and with compromise, I know that the roads to the future of America will be straight and true and headed toward justice and freedom not just for all Americans but for all the people of the world.

I thank the people of southeast Louisiana for allowing me to serve here in the greatest of all institutions, the United States Congress. I thank my colleagues for their great friendship, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I thank my wife Bonnie and my children, Shep and his lovely wife Sissy, Rich, Dave and Susie, and my very new beautiful grandchild Caroline and my parents and all my family for their love and their support through these 21½ wonderful years.

Thank you all and God bless America.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB LIVINGSTON

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is ironic that on a day when we are swearing in a new colleague, the House is losing one of its best Members.

I have known the gentleman from Louisiana a long time. He came here a little over 20 years ago. He served as my ranking member on the Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee. We had many differences. But I have to say that never for one moment did I doubt that he felt that he was putting the national interest above every other consideration in dealing with American foreign policy.

I have to say that I think the chances of the peace process moving forward in the Middle East would have been much less without his steadfast commitment to sometimes taking the tough actions on this floor that were necessary to help promote that process. I also have to say that I think that we would not see countries such as Poland and some of the other former East European captives of the Soviet Union, we would not see those countries in nearly the good shape they are in today if it were not for the very active efforts made on a bipartisan basis by the gentleman from Louisiana and his predecessor in that same committee slot, Mickey Edwards.

He served honorably and fairly when he served as my ranking member on the committee. He then succeeded me as chairman of the full committee and again we had very large differences, but we never surprised each other and we learned to trust each other implicitly.

We all have conflicting responsibilities and conflicting loyalties in this place. We have responsibilities to our party, to our country and to our institution. The gentleman from Louisiana in every case that I know of always put those priorities in the right order. He put country first, he put this institution second and he put his party third, and sometimes his own self-interest fourth.

He and his wife Bonnie Livingston have graced this institution with their presence. They are both wonderful people. I will miss them both.

I respect BOB. Sometimes I think he has been off the wall. I am sure he feels the same about me. And sometimes we probably both were. But I also love him. And I especially want to honor him because I think he has demonstrated that the word politician is not a bad name. As John Hume, that great leader for peace in Northern Ireland, said, politics is the alternative that democracies have to war in sorting out and settling our major differences. I think the gentleman from Louisiana has always recognized that. The House has been better for his being here. The House will certainly be lesser for his leaving. I know that BOB and I are living examples of what Will Rog-

ers meant when he said that if two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary, but nonetheless we have been good friends. I think we can all agree that as BOB leaves this place, we can say that he has indeed been a good and faithful servant.

FAREWELL TO HONORABLE BOB LIVINGSTON

(Mr. TAUZIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for those most kind and warm and generous remarks about the gentleman from Louisiana. I know that there are many others who would like to similarly make comments for the record. There is leave to do so. The day before yesterday we held an hour special order to honor and extend our respect and admiration and best wishes to the gentleman from Louisiana on behalf of the people of Louisiana and this grateful Nation. If Members would like to submit words for the record, there is 5-day leave and I would encourage them to do so.

In that special order, we wanted the Nation to know a few very important things about this man. One of them is that he comes from an extraordinary lineage. It was his ancestor of many great degrees back, Robert Livingston, who as Minister to France signed the Louisiana Purchase on behalf of President Jefferson and purchased the territory from which 13 States or parts of States have been carved. Yet with that amazing lineage behind him, BOB LIVINGSTON rose from very humble beginnings. Losing his father at a very early age, his mother nevertheless went to work in a shipyard in Louisiana to raise BOB and his sister and to give them a chance at an education. BOB himself returned to that shipyard to work as he got his own education in his later years.

But BOB's life has been spent in public service. BOB did a stint in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserve. He worked most of his career as a U.S. Justice Department prosecutor in New Orleans as a prosecutor for the criminal court system in New Orleans and for the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana before coming to this body and serving for those 21½ years. He has given his life to public service.

And our State and our Nation are deeply grateful, BOB, for all you have done in your whole life for this country and for the people of our great State of Louisiana. More importantly, BOB LIVINGSTON has been a remarkable legislator in this House of colleagues who all rise to different levels of greatness. BOB LIVINGSTON, acknowledged by many Members of the Committee on Appropriations the other night, is probably the single individual most responsible for finding the consensus in

the last 4 years as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations that has delivered for this country a surplus for us to talk about this year, has taken us out of deficit, not in 5 or 7 years as predicted but in a short 2-year period.

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Mr. Speaker, for all the things he will be remembered for and for all the good things he has done in this body and throughout his public career, I think this Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for that most important thing of taking us out of deficit and giving us a surplus to debate this year.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOB LIVINGSTON) may not ever get the credit he deserves, Mr. Speaker, but I will tell my colleagues that I know it in my heart and the people of Louisiana know it in their heart: We have rarely seen a man of that kind of dedication and spirit and deep respect and love and compassion and, as was said, tolerance for different opinions represent our State than has BOB LIVINGSTON. Louisiana will miss him sorely, and on behalf of all the people of his great district, and by the way BOB leaves with not a 60 or 70 or 80 percent approval rate, Mr. Speaker. He leaves Congress with an over 90 percent approval rate. On behalf of those people in his district and the entire State of Louisiana and, I know, this great Nation, I thank my friend for all the years he gave us. God bless him and Bonnie and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish the gentleman from Louisiana the great Cajun wish of *joie de vie*. I hope his life is full of joy, that his life is rich and that the retirement he justly deserves is one that he and his family will fully enjoy.

Again, BOB, thank you. God bless you.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by this day because we are saying an official farewell to a very dear friend and a very distinguished Member of this House, and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) and I have served together on the Committee on Appropriations for many years. We served on the same subcommittee and sat side-by-side. And I can tell my colleagues that here is a man who is totally honest. What you see is what he is. When he says something, we can depend on it. He is not afraid to buck the tide of public opinion, if that need be the case on a given occasion, in order to stand for what his conscience tells him is right, for what his convictions tell him is right.

Mr. Speaker, he is an example for people in public life to follow through

his dedication to the constituents that he represented, his dedication to the country, the entire United States of America and his willingness to stand up and take whatever heat was necessary to do what he felt was right for America.

Personally, I will miss BOB LIVINGSTON, and I hope that he will feel free to stay in touch with this Member and, I think, with all of us, because he has been a good friend, and he has been an outstanding Member. And he became Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations when many of us had never ever served in the majority before, and we were wondering:

What do we do next?

Mr. Speaker, of all the things that have to be done in a Congress, appropriations bills have to pass. Those are the things that have to be done. And BOB LIVINGSTON, as the new chairman and the first Republican chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in 40 years, had a major, major task and a major responsibility, and he had problems not only in the House within his own party on occasion. But he stood tall, and he stood strong, and he guided this appropriations process for those 4 years in such a way that most of us thought never would work.

To the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON) I say:

Congratulations on a job well done. Your friends will miss you dearly, and that comes from our heart.

WIRELESS PRIVACY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 77 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 77

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 514) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose and in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman

of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 77 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 514, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, a bill that will improve wireless communication privacy and make it more difficult for scanners to be altered for unlawful purposes. H. Res. 77 is a wide-open rule providing 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of Rule 13 which requires a 3-day layover for committee reports, and the rule provides that each section of the bill shall be considered as read.

H. Res. 77 further allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration. The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone recorded votes and to reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question provided voting time on the first in any series of questions is not less than 15 minutes. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, when an American citizen picks up his telephone, we want to believe that the right to privacy is protecting us. Unfortunately, the rapid advance of technology permits the interception of phone calls rather easily, and relatively simple modifications to devices can provide anyone with an electronic stocking device. The bill before us today is designed to ensure that the current penalties for intercepting and divulging communications are strengthened.